105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 319

Honoring the accomplishments of members of the United States Air Force and other Americans working under Air Force leadership who contributed to the development of supersonic flight technology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on National Security

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the accomplishments of members of the United States Air Force and other Americans working under Air Force leadership who contributed to the development of supersonic flight technology.

Whereas the Army Air Force was the lead United States agency for the development of supersonic flight technology;

Whereas on October 14, 1947, United States Air Force Captain Charles E. ''Chuck'' Yeager's flight in the Bell XS–1 rocket-propelled supersonic research aircraft was the first to exceed the speed of sound;

Whereas the United States Air Force developed the X-series aircraft, which, as airborne research tools, enabled aeronautical science to make a bold leap forward;

Whereas many individual Americans selflessly gave their time, energy, and expertise to achieve the technological breakthrough in aeronautical science that supersonic flight represented;

Whereas on June 30 and July 1, 1947, representatives of the Army Air Force's Air Materiel Command and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics met at Wright Field, Ohio, and finalized plans for the first supersonic flight;

Whereas the individuals who devoted themselves to achieving this breakthrough and to the overall improvement of air and space flight include—

Captain (later Air Force brigadier general) Charles E. ''Chuck'' Yeager, Air Force Bell XS–1 test pilot and the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound;

Captain Jackie Ridley, Air Force test pilot and flight test planner for the Bell XS–1 aircraft's supersonic research missions at Muroc Dry Lake, California;

Colonel (later Air Force general) Albert Boyd, chief of flight testing at the Air Materiel Command, Wright Field, Ohio;

Ezra Kotcher, Air Force engineer who developed the design requirements for the Bell XS–1 aircraft and who was a tireless advocate for the procurement of supersonic research aircraft;

Fred D. Orazio, Sr., Air Force engineer who developed preliminary design studies for a supersonic demonstrator aircraft powered by a turbojet engine;

George Bailey, Air Force engineer who developed preliminary design studies for a supersonic demonstrator aircraft powered by a rocket motor;

John Stack, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics research scientist and visionary pioneer of the supersonic research aircraft concept;

Walter C. Williams, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics flight test director who managed and directed the efforts to conduct flight research with the Bell XS–1 aircraft at Muroc Dry Lake, California;

Robert Woods, Bell Aircraft Corporation chief engineer who took on the challenge to build a supersonic aircraft and who assembled the design team that made its construction possible;

Jack Woolams, Bell Aircraft Corporation test pilot who first proved the flight worthiness of the Bell XS–1 aircraft and who championed the aircraft until his tragic death in an air racing accident;

Chalmers H. ''Slick'' Goodlin, Bell Aircraft Corporation test pilot who validated the design of the Bell XS–1 aircraft during its contractor flight tests; and

Richard H. Frost, Bell Aircraft Corporation test pilot and engineer who provided technical instruction, guidance, and counsel to the Bell XS–1 aircraft test team as it approached ever-higher speeds in pursuit of the goal of supersonic flight; and

Whereas these Americans and many others brought to the world a new era of high-speed flight that made possible the tremendous advances in international air transport that followed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors the accomplishments of members of the United States Air Force and other Americans

working under Air Force leadership to develop supersonic flight technology; and

(2) finds that the example of those who worked to develop supersonic flight technology serves as both an inspiration and challenge to Americans today as they stand poised on the threshold of a new century of flight.

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